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Letter dated 10 February 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you of the work of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), the mandate of which expires on 28 February 2014.

Since its inauguration in March 2011 and the assumption of office by my Special Representative and Head of UNOCA, Abou Moussa, in June 2011, UNOCA has been assisting my efforts to further advance peace and security in the Central African subregion and to support regional efforts in this regard. UNOCA has been closely monitoring developments in the subregion, while working in synergy with other United Nations entities to provide support to regional States and organizations, including the Regional Cooperation Initiative against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) of the African Union. These activities have been presented to the Security Council in briefings by my Special Representative, as well as in my regular reports.

In its latest presidential statement on LRA (S/PRST/2013/18), the Security Council noted the conclusion in my report on UNOCA and LRA (S/2013/671) that increased poaching activities had contributed to heightened concerns about security in the Central African Republic and the wider Central African region and that poaching was used to finance transnational criminal networks and armed rebel groups, including LRA. UNOCA will continue to support a regional approach to addressing the threat posed by poaching and illicit trafficking of wildlife.

Moreover, in its resolution 2039 (2012), the Security Council requested me to support, through UNOCA and the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), States and subregional organizations in convening a joint summit of Gulf of Guinea States to develop a regional anti-piracy strategy. The Summit of Heads of State and Government on Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea, held in Yaoundé on 24 and 25 June 2013, adopted a declaration on safety and security in the common maritime space, known as the Yaoundé Declaration. It is now critical for the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States and the Gulf of Guinea Commission to implement their decisions and for bilateral and international partners to support this regional effort. UNOCA and UNOWA will jointly support the operationalization of the strategy and of the Interregional Coordination Centre on Maritime Safety and Security for Central and West Africa.

With the extension of its mandate, UNOCA will continue, as indicated in my previous letter to the President of the Security Council (S/2012/656), to implement

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the United Nations regional strategy to address the threat posed by LRA in close collaboration with national, regional and international partners, to facilitate the organization of the semi-annual ministerial meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa and to carry out, inter alia, the following tasks:

(a) Cooperate with the Economic Community of Central African States, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries and other key partners and assist them, as appropriate, in their promotion of peace and stability in the broader Central African subregion;

(b) Carry out good offices roles and special assignments in countries of the subregion, on behalf of the Secretary-General, including in the areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding;

(c) Strengthen the capacity of the Department of Political Affairs to advise the Secretary-General on matters relating to peace and security in the subregion;

(d) Enhance linkages in the work of the United Nations and other partners in the subregion, with a view to promoting an integrated subregional approach and facilitating coordination and information exchange, with due regard to specific mandates of United Nations organizations as well as peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding support offices;

(e) Report to Headquarters on developments of subregional significance.

I therefore recommend a further extension of the mandate of the Office for a period of 18 months.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon